

APPLICANTS' REQUEST FOR AN INTERFERENCE WITH A PATENT

1. Identification of Patent under Rule 607(a)(1)

Applicants seek an interference between this application and United States Patent No. 5,536,490 to Klaveness et al (hereinafter the '490 patent) which issued on July 16, 1996.

2. Presentation of a proposed Count Under Rule 607(a)(2)

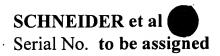
For purposes of this rule, the following proposed count is believed to define overlapping, patentably indistinct subject matter between this application and the '490 patent:

Count 1

Microbubbles comprising an amphiphilic phospholipid material capable of formation of gas-containing microbubbles, said microbubbles comprising a physiologically acceptable gas.

3. Identification of Claims from the '490 Patent that Correspond to the Proposed Count under Rule 607(a)(3)

Proposed Count	'490 Patent Claims that Correspond to Proposed Count	
Count 1	3-5, 17, 19-20	



4. Compliance with Rule 607(a)(4)

a. Presentation of New Claims Corresponding to the Proposed Count under Rule 607(a)(4)

Applicants have added new claims 54-56 which are believed to correspond to Count 1, i.e., define patentably indistinct subject matter.

b. Explanation of Why Each Claim Corresponds to the Proposed Count

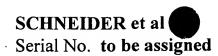
i) Applicants' Claims Corresponding to Count 1

Claim 54 corresponds exactly to proposed Count 1.

Claims 55 and 56 substantially correspond to Count 1. These claims differ from Count 1 by reciting "fluorine-containing gas" and "freon", respectively, instead of the "physiologically acceptable gas" of Count 1. However, claims 55 and 56 define subsets of Count 1 because both "fluorine-containing gas" and "freon" are subsets of Count 1's "physiologically acceptable gas."

This is demonstrated by Applicants' specification at page 15, lines 22-25 which states that:

"The gases in the microbubbles of the present invention can include, in addition to current innocuous physiologically acceptable gases like CO₂, nitrogen, N₂O, methane, butane, <u>freon</u> and mixtures thereof..." (emphasis added).



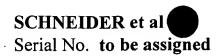
The gases defined by "fluorine-containing gases" include "freon". *Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary*, Twelfth Edition, Revised by Richard J. Lewis, Sr., Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York.

The '490 patent at column 2, lines 29-34 includes a similar definition:

Any biocompatible gas may be employed in the contrast agents of the invention, for example air, nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, helium, argon, sulphur hexafluoride and low molecular weight optionally fluorinated hydrocarbons such as methane, acetylene or carbon tetrafluoride...(emphasis added).

ii. The '490 Claims Corresponding to Count 1

Claim 3 of the '490 patent is the same as Count 1 except for its recitation of sulphur hexafluoride as its physiologically acceptable gas. Applicants submit that for the reasons stated in Section 4, b, i, *supra*, sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) recited in certain of the '490 patent claims, e.g., '490 patent claim 3, is an immaterial limitation for purposes of this analysis, i.e., it can be disregarded in evaluating the separate or common patentability of the '490 patent claims and e.g., claims 54-56 of this application. The other claims that correspond to Count 1 of the '490 patent (4-5, 17 and 19-20) relate to specific, patentably indistinct aspects of the microbubbles which are all encompassed by Count 1.



5. Application of the Terms of Applicants' Claims 54-56 Which Correspond to Proposed Count 1 to Applicants' Specification Under Rule 607(a)(5)

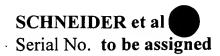
Claims	Citations to Applicants' Specification (and Parent	
	Application EP 90810262.7 in parentheses) ¹	
Microbubbles comprising	the suspension of microbubbles according to the	
	invention at p. 6, l. 27-28 (p. 5, l. 26-27)	
an amphiphilic phospholipid	amphipatic compoundsparticularly phospholipids	
material	at p. 6, l. 4 and 7 (p. 5, l. 15-20)	
capable of formation of gas-	then air or a gas is introduced into the liposome	
containing microbubbles	solution so that a suspension of microbubbles will	
	form at p. 6, l. 36-p. 7, 1. 1 (p. 5, l. 35-36)	
said microbubbles compris-	the gases in the microbubbles of the present	
ing a physiologically	invention can include in addition to current	
acceptable gas (Claim 54);	innocuous physiologically acceptable gases	
fluorine-containing gas	likefreon at p. 15, l. 22-24 (p. 14, l. 11-13)	
(Claim 55); freon (Claim 56)		

The citations to EP 90810262.7, Applicants' parent application, demonstrate that Applicants are entitled to the benefit of this EP application for claims 54-56.

6. Explanation of Compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 135(b) Under Rule 607(a)(6)

This request for an interference complies with 35 U.S.C.§ 135(b) because it has been filed on July 15, 1997 which is within one year of the July 16, 1996 issue

¹ Copies of Schneider et al's foreign application EP 90810262.7, are attached hereto.

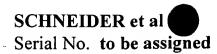


date of the '490 patent, and it adds claims that are the same or substantially the same as claims in the '490 patent.

7. Other Interfering, Patentably Indistinct Subject Matter

The '490 patent has claims directed to other subject matter which is disclosed and claimed in Applicants' application. The table below summarizes the patentably indistinct subject matter:

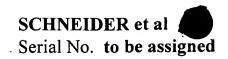
	<u>'490</u>	Applicants'	Support for Applicants' Claims in
'490 Claimed	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Claims</u>	Applicants' Specification (and Parent
Subject matter			Application EP90810262.7 in parentheses)
Aqueous	6-8	10-19	See chart on page 4 herein and aqueous
dispersion			dispersion at pp. 1, 5-6, 13-14, specific
			phospholipid and additives at pp. 9-11, and
			microbubble concentration at pp. 12-14 of
			the disclosure (pp. 1, 4-6, 9-13)
Process for	29-32	20-24	See chart on page 4 herein and process
preparing a			variables at pp. 1, 5-13 of the disclosure (pp.
contrast agent		:	1, 4-14)
Contrast Agent	38	25	See chart on page 4 herein and contrast
prepared by a			agent at pp. 1, 14-15 and the examples of
process			the disclosure pp. 1, 13-14 (p.1 and
			examples)
Method of	40	26	See chart on page 4 herein and method of
enhancing			enhancing at pp. 1, 14-15 and the examples
images of			of the disclosure (p. 1 and examples)
vascular			
system			



The citations to EP 90810262.7, Applicants' parent application, demonstrate that Applicants are entitled to the benefit of this EP application for claims10-26.

Four counts directed to this subject matter should be '490 claims 6, 29,38 and 40, respectively, (1) written in independent claim form, and (2) with "physiologically acceptable gas" substituted for "sulphur hexafluoride". The counts would encompass all of the subject matter of the '490 claims and Applicants' claims which are identified above -- the differences between the claims and these counts are all recitations of more specific, patentably indistinct, elements of the counts. For example, the sulphur hexafluoride of the '490 claims is patentably indistinct from the physiologically acceptable gas of the counts (see discussion *supra* regarding proposed Count 1). Section 135(b) is complied with for these new counts and claims for the reasons stated in Section 6, *supra*.

Please examine this application and act on this amendment with special dispatch as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.607(b).



Respectfully submitted,

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